

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEBRASKA

RODNEY T. NAUDEN,

Petitioner,

vs.

LANCASTER COUNTY JAIL,

Respondent.

**8:24CV388**

**MEMORANDUM AND ORDER**

This matter is before the Court on correspondence from Petitioner Rodney T. Nauden, which the Court has construed and docketed as a Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus brought pursuant to [28 U.S.C. § 2241](#). [Filing No. 1](#). However, this matter will not proceed further until Petitioner cures the deficiencies discussed below.

First, Petitioner failed to include the \$5.00 filing fee. Petitioner has the choice of either submitting the \$5.00 fee to the Clerk's office or submitting a request to proceed in forma pauperis. If Petitioner chooses to do the latter, the enclosed pauper's forms should be completed and returned to this Court. Failure to take either action within 30 days will result in the Court dismissing this case without further notice to Petitioner.

Second, Petitioner has not signed the petition under penalty of perjury, which is required to proceed. See, e.g. [28 U.S.C. § 2242](#) and Rule 2(c)(5) of the *Rules Governing Section 2254 Cases in the United States District Courts*.<sup>1</sup>

Third, a habeas corpus petition must "substantially follow either the form appended to [the *Rules Governing Section 2254 Cases in the United States District Courts*], or a form prescribed by a local district-court rule." See Rule 2 of the *Rules*

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<sup>1</sup> Rule 1(b) of the *Rules Governing Section 2254 Cases in the United States District Courts* allows the Court to apply those rules to a [section 2241](#) action.

*Governing Section 2254 Cases in the United States District Courts.* Here, Petitioner did not use the Form AO 242 Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus Under [28 U.S.C. § 2241](#). Instead, in an untitled one-page, handwritten document, Petitioner states only that he has “been in jail since March 15, 2024,” for a charge of possession of a controlled substance and “would like someone to look . . . into [his] case please,” [Filing No. 1](#), but he does not clearly indicate the decision or action he is challenging or the grounds upon which he seeks habeas relief.

Finally, Petitioner failed to name a proper respondent in the Petition, rendering it clearly deficient.<sup>2</sup> See [Filing No. 1](#). Rule 2(a) of the *Rules Governing Section 2254 Cases in the United States District Courts* states that “if the petitioner is currently in custody under a state-court judgment, the petition must name as respondent the state officer who has custody.” In habeas corpus challenges to present physical confinement, the default rule is that the proper respondent is the warden of the facility where the prisoner is being held. [Rumsfeld v. Padilla, 542 U.S. 426, 434 \(2005\)](#).

Based on these deficiencies, Petitioner’s petition is deemed insufficient, and the Court will not act upon it. However, on the Court’s own motion, Petitioner will have 30 days in which to file an amended petition for writ of habeas corpus. To be clear, Petitioner must (1) either pay the \$5.00 fee or submit a request to proceed in forma pauperis and (2) file an amended petition for writ of habeas corpus under [28 U.S.C. § 2241](#) that is originally signed under the penalty of perjury. The Court will direct the Clerk of the Court to send to Petitioner the AO 242 Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus Under [28 U.S.C. § 2241](#).

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<sup>2</sup> The Court supplied “Lancaster County Jail” as the named respondent based on Petitioner’s instruction in his petition to “serve at Lancaster County Jail.” [Filing No. 1](#).

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that:

1. Petitioner is directed to submit the \$5.00 fee to the Clerk's office or submit a request to proceed in forma pauperis by **November 6, 2024**. Failure to take either action will result in dismissal of this matter without further notice.

2. The pending petition, [Filing No. 1](#), is deemed insufficient and the Court will not act upon it.

3. By **November 6, 2024**, Petitioner shall file an amended petition for writ of habeas corpus that is originally signed under penalty of perjury. Petitioner is encouraged to use the enclosed official Form AO 242. To avoid confusion, any document Petitioner sends to the Clerk of the Court for filing in this case must clearly display the case number (8:24CV388). Failure to file an amended petition in accordance with this Memorandum and Order will result in dismissal of this matter without further notice.

4. The Clerk of the Court is directed to send to Petitioner the Form AO 240 ("Application to Proceed Without Prepayment of Fees and Affidavit") and the Form AO 242 Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus Under [28 U.S.C. § 2241](#).

5. The Clerk of the Court is directed to set a pro se case management deadline in this matter with the following text: **November 6, 2024**: Check for MIFP or payment and amended petition.

Dated this 7th day of October, 2024.

BY THE COURT:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J F Bataillon", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Joseph F. Bataillon  
Senior United States District Judge